

Remarks

The Office Action mailed October 1, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-20 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-20 stand rejected. Claim 13 stands objected to.

The objection to Claim 13 due to an informality is respectfully traversed. Specifically, Claim 13 has been amended to recite “in accordance with Claim 12”. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants request that the objection to Claim 13 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Popp et al. (U.S. Patent) (“Popp”) is respectfully traversed.

Popp describes a brush seal 3 for sealing separate spaces at different pressures from one another. Brush seal 3 includes a plurality of bristles coupled to a holder 4. In one embodiment, brush seal 3 extends between a first rotating shaft 1B and a second rotating shaft 10B. Specifically, brush seal 3 extends obliquely between holder 4 and an abutting face 5.

Claim 1 recites a method for assembling a gas turbine engine, wherein the method includes “positioning a seal assembly including a brush seal and a plurality of seal bristles along a first rotatable shaft...positioning the seal assembly such that the seal bristles contact a second rotatable shaft to facilitate sealing between the first and second rotatable shafts during gas turbine engine operation... coupling the brush seal to the first rotatable shaft such that the brush seal is retained between an abutment extending from the first rotatable shaft and a fastener assembly.”

Popp does not describe nor suggest a method for assembling a gas turbine engine as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Popp does not describe nor suggest coupling a brush seal to a first rotatable shaft such that the brush seal is retained between an abutment

extending from the first rotatable shaft and a fastener assembly. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Popp describes a brush seal extending obliquely between a holder and an abutting face of a rotating shaft. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Popp.

Claims 2-5 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-5 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-5 likewise are patentable over Popp.

Claim 6 recites a seal assembly for a gas turbine engine including a first rotatable shaft and a second rotatable shaft, wherein the seal assembly includes “a brush seal and a plurality of seal projections extending outwardly from said brush seal, said brush seal removably coupled to the first rotatable shaft by a fastener assembly such that said plurality of seal projections contact the second rotatable shaft to facilitate sealing between the first and second rotatable shafts.”

Popp does not describe nor suggest a seal assembly for a gas turbine engine as recited in Claim 6. More specifically, Popp does not describe nor suggest a brush seal removably coupled to a rotatable shaft by a fastener assembly. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Popp describes a brush seal extending obliquely between a holder and an abutting face of a rotating shaft. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 6 is submitted to be patentable over Popp.

Claims 7-11 depend from independent Claim 6. When the recitations of Claims 7-11 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 6, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 7-11 likewise are patentable over Popp.

Claim 12 recites a gas turbine engine including “a first rotatable shaft comprising an abutment...a second rotatable shaft...a seal assembly extending between said first and second rotatable shafts to facilitate preventing leakage through a gap defined between said first and second rotatable shafts, said seal assembly comprising a brush seal and a plurality of seal projections extending outwardly from said brush seal, said brush seal removably coupled to

the first rotatable shaft such that said brush seal is retained between an abutment extending from the first rotatable shaft and a fastener assembly, and such that said plurality of seal projections contact the second rotatable shaft to facilitate sealing between the first and second rotatable shafts.”

Popp does not describe nor suggest a gas turbine engine as recited in Claim 12. More specifically, Popp does not describe nor suggest a brush seal removably coupled to a first rotatable shaft such that the brush seal is retained between an abutment extending from the first rotatable shaft and a fastener assembly. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Popp describes a brush seal extending obliquely between a holder and an abutting face of a rotating shaft. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 12 is submitted to be patentable over Popp.

Claims 13-20 depend from independent Claim 12. When the recitations of Claims 13-20 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 12, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 13-20 likewise are patentable over Popp.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-20 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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